

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 FAA-00 DRC-01

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R 131516Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION NATO 5548

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1594

EO 11652

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, GW, GE, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH FLIGHTS TO BERLIN

REF: A) BONN 05128; B) BERLIN 185; C) BERLIN 152.

1. SUMMARY: REPORT THAT THY WILL BEGIN FLYING FROM SCHOENEFELD IN OCTOBER HAS RENEWED LOCAL CONCERN OVER THREATENED SHIFT OF IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF BERLIN AIR TRAFFIC. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT ALLIES ENCOURAGE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO SEEK OVERFLIGHT

RIGHTS FOR WEST BERLIN FLIGHTS FROM GDR AND STATE ALLIED READINESS TO GRANT LANDING RIGHTS HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED SEPTEMBER 11 THAT TURKISH AIRLINE THY WOULD BEGIN SERVICE BETWEEN SCHOENEFELD AND TURKEY IN OCTOBER. THY'S INTENTIONS ARE REPORTEDLY TO ALLOCATE HALF OF ESTIMATED 60,000 TURKISH PASSENGERS NOW CARRIED ANNUALLY BY ALLIED CHARTER LINES TO SCHOENEFELD AND FLY OTHER HALF ITSELF VIA FRG (THY HAS
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DAILY SCHEDULED SERVICE BETWEEN TURKEY AND MUNICH AND

FRANKFURT). AS IN JANUARY WHEN THREAT OF SUCH A MOVE FIRST SURFACED (REF C), REPORT HAS GENERATED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT BERLIN AIR SITUATION. BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ DECLARED TURKISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT BERLIN AIR TRAFFIC WAS POLITICAL PROBLEM CONCERNING WHICH A NATO PARTNER COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE UNDERSTANDING.

3. SENAT HAS INFORMED MISSION THAT THY REP AND LOCAL TURKISH CONSULATE GENERAL HAVE CONFIRMED CONCLUSION BY THY AND INTERFLUG OF INTERLINE AGREEMENT FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS BETWEEN SCHOENEFELD AND TURKEY, TO TAKE EFFECT OCTOBER 1. INFORMAL SENAT NOTE STATES SERVICE WOULD START TWICE WEEKLY AND EXPAND TO DAILY SERVICE. THY PLANS TO USE BOEING 707 AT FIRST AND DC-10 LATER. THY TOLD SENAT THAT IT EXPECTS INCREASING NUMBER OF TURKISH PASSENGERS WILL ENABLE MODERN AIR, LAKER, AND DANAIK TO CONTINUE FLIGHTS TO TURKEY AND THAT IT WILL MAINTAIN CURRENT CONTRACT WITH THESE ALLIED CHARTER LINES. FINALLY, NOTE STATES TURKISH SIDE ASSURED SENAT THAT IT WOULD FORGO FLIGHTS OUT OF SCHOENEFELD AS SOON AS THY GRANTED "TRAFFIC AND LANDING RIGHTS" IN WEST BERLIN, WHICH, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM TURKISH EMBASSY IN BONN, THREE ALLIES ARE OPPOSED TO DOING. NOTE CONCLUDES THAT SENAT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THY HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE CLEAR ATTEMPT ON PART OF SENAT TO SHIFT ALL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ALLIES AND THUS AVOID PUBLIC CRITICISM FOR ADVERSE EFFECTS ON VOLUME OF WEST BERLIN AIR TRAFFIC)

4. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL, BONN GROUP WAS INFORMED BY FRG REP LAST APRIL THAT WHILE MAIN TURKISH INTEREST WAS IN FLYING TO WEST BERLIN, TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO TAKE UP QUESTION OF OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH GDR, NOR DID IT THINK PROGRESS ON OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS LIKELY UNTIL SOME ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN MADE FOR TURKISH FLIGHTS TO SCHOENEFELD (REF A). LATTER CONDITION NOW APPEARS TO BE MET, ALBEIT WITH CONSEQUENT ADVERSE EFFECTS FOR WEST BERLIN, BOTH ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL. SINCE TURKS REPORTEDLY WOULD STILL PREFER TO FLY TO WEST BERLIN, MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN ALLIED INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE TURKEY

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TO SEEK OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FROM GDR FOR FLIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN NOW, WHILE AT SAME TIME INDICATING ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO GRANT LANDING RIGHTS HERE. FACT THAT TURKEY HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GDR MIGHT PROVIDE SOME NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE FOR OBTAINING OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS. MISSION STILL BELIEVES THAT TURKS, AS NATO ALLY AND AS SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF PASSENGERS, HAVE GOOD CASE FOR ESTABLISHING SCHEDULED SERVICE TO WEST BERLIN. FURTHERMORE, IT IS INCREASINGLY

APPARENT THAT THY INTENDS TO CAPTURE MUCH OF BERLIN'S
TURKISH PASSENGER TRAFFIC AND IS LIKELY TO SUCCEED. SHIFT
OF SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF THIS TRAFFIC TO SCHOENEFELD WOULD
ALSO GREATLY INCREASE PROBLEM OF UNCONTROLLED ACCESS OF
PERSONS AND BAGGAGE TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN. FINALLY, IT WOULD BE
IRONIC DEVELOPMENT IF WEST BERLIN SHOULD BE DENIED TRAFFIC
MADE UP ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF ITS OWN RESIDENTS. IF THY WERE
ABLE TO CARRY THAT TRAFFIC DIRECTLY TO AND FROM WEST
BERLIN, THE CITY WOULD NOT ONLY BENEFIT ECONOMICALLY BUT ALSO
AT LAST ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH IN NON-THREE POWER NORTH-SOUTH
SERVICE ENVISIONED IN BONN GROUP AIR STUDY OF 1972.

5. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON THY
BERLIN PLANS WHICH EMBASSY ANKARA MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN.KLEIN

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